

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 3-10-09  
SB 214

## **Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

I stand in support of SB 214, something needs to be done to detour cattle rustling in Montana. Harsher penalties could. My brother Bill Rehbein and I ranch in Richland County; our operation transports cow/calf pairs to a grazing association south of Glendive Mt. This summer 12 pairs disappeared from the association pastures. Of these 12 pairs 8 were ours. Ranchers like ours can not incur these losses. To figure conservatively stock cows at \$1000 per head and the calves that were following these cows at \$500 per head you can see the impact that is to our operation. This year the losses were more dramatic then most but it is highly probable for our grazing association to have 4 to 5 pairs disappear and we need to do all we can to stop this. Stiffer penalties tend to deter crime and with the present economy, cattle rustling will get worse.

Thank you, and I encourage a do pass on this good bill.



Mark Rehbein